

WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

May 14, 2013

In Attendance:

Bruce Barnes, Traffic Engineer; Highway Commissioner Representative
Allen Buchholz, General Manager; Hank's Transportation
Jim Hellen, Safety Director; Go Riteway
Captain Erik Kehl; City of Delafield Police Department Representative
Police Specialist Steven Kraus; City of Waukesha Police Department Representative
Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz; U.W.-Madison, Transportation Information Center
Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz; City of Muskego Police Department Representative
Rob Nelson, President; Dousman Transport
Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi; Village of Mukwonago Police Department Representative
Lieutenant Paul Renkas; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Captain Paul Repischak; City of New Berlin Police Department Representative
Kathleen Roe; Education Representative
Sergeant Steve Rudie; Menomonee Falls Police Department Representative
Sergeant Eric Schmidt; Town of Mukwonago Police Department Representative
Robb Schuelke, Assistant Location Manager; First Student
Tom Straks, Safety Director; Johnson Bus
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Paul Renkas at 2:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, made a motion to approve the minutes from 02-12-13. Kathleen Roe, Education Representative, seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The minutes were then approved.

OLD BUSINESS (PARTICIPATION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS)

Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, stated the focal point of the past meeting was to reach out and bring other law enforcement agencies back to the meetings who may have not been attending for some time. Each jurisdiction has their own unique form of government, and the meetings are a form of networking and brainstorming with different resources to find answers and solve problems. One of the topics for this meeting was "Safety Concerns With School Buses", and he thanked all of the school bus representatives for attending.

SAFETY CONCERNS WITH SCHOOL BUSES – STUDENT SAFETY

Five school bus companies were represented at the meeting to include: Dousman Transport, First Student, Go Riteway, Hank's Transportation, and Johnson Bus. Some of the topics brought up included what rules each municipality has regarding red light violations, and rules regarding an emergency stop response to emergency vehicles. It was suggested if school buses are already stopped on the roadway, they should stay where they are on the side of the road, with the red flashing lights from the bus remaining on, and with all children staying on the bus, until the emergency vehicles go around and pass through. The situation should be treated the same as if it were an intersection. Some drivers radio ahead to the bus in front to warn them of approaching emergency vehicles. It was agreed by all that the safety of the children always comes first.

The school bus representatives stated that one of the major problems is cars going through red lights, and all representatives agreed that there are at least several violators every day. Sometimes it is difficult for the bus drivers to obtain plate numbers, and they do rely on the county and municipalities to help them out. They also stated that high speed areas, reconditioned roads, and four lane divided highways are the most troublesome areas. Traffic Safety Commission representatives stated the school bus representatives should let their municipalities know of the number of violations and identify their problem areas. In turn, the bus drivers like to have feedback on what the outcome is on violations that they report. It was suggested that the public should be more educated by the school district notifying the parents through e-mails on what the laws are concerning school buses and traffic safety. Also perhaps the local newspapers could have a feature article on bus safety.

It was suggested that while the bus drivers are having in-service, a law enforcement representative from their local jurisdiction could attend and answer any questions they may have.

Evacuation procedures for schools involved in an emergency situation were also discussed. It was stated how important it is to have a safety committee within each school district. Each jurisdiction has certain requirements, each has special needs, and each has special geographical needs. Evacuation drills performed by the schools are available for observation.

COMMUNITY MAPS

Andrea Loeffelholz, Outreach Specialist from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Transportation Information Center, presented a follow-up from the last meeting on "Community Maps" which provides Wisconsin's local law enforcement and Traffic Safety Commissions with an on-line interface for visualizing and mapping crash data. All Traffic Safety Commissions are required to provide an "electronic spot map". She then provided detailed instructions on how to plot crashes within the county using a laptop and projection screen.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

➔ Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz, of the City of Muskego Police Department, reported that the City of Muskego Police Department, had one fatal accident, as follows.

- Date of Accident: 03-14-12

Location: Loomis Road and Champions

A pick-up truck was traveling westbound on Highway 36, crossed the median and eastbound traffic, and went off the road into a marshy area. The cause of the single vehicle accident was possibly due to a medical emergency.

➔ Chairman Lieutenant Paul Renkas reported that the Waukesha Sheriff's Department had two fatalities, as follows:

- Date of Accident: 03-02-13

Location: I-43, 1.10 mile south of Racine Avenue

A 2001 Pontiac GrandAm was headed southbound on I-43, approximately 1.1 mile south of Racine Avenue in the right lane when it struck a pedestrian crossing I-43 in the right lane.

- Date of Accident: 05-14-13

Location: Eastbound STH 16 and East Wisconsin Avenue

On 05-14-13, at 0959 hours, a Village of Pewaukee marked squad car was stopping on an inside emergency median lane to remove debris from the left lane on Highway 16 when a 2001 Harley Davidson motorcycle struck the squad from behind. The accident possibly was a result of the debris that was left in the roadway. The male operator of the motorcycle was transported by Flight For Life, and was pronounced deceased at Froedtert Memorial Hospital at 1810 hours.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department. The topic for that meeting will be "Applying For Grants".

ADJOURNMENT

Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(MINUTES APPROVED ON 09-17-13)